MONTEREY NEWS

July 2022 Est. 1970
Vol. LII · Number 7

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station, Bracken Brae farmstand

Memorial Day is both a day to remember and reflect on the service given to our country as well as a time to celebrate community. See Natalie Manzino's reflection on page 15, and photos and text from the parade on pages 14 to 18.

But power, while it sometimes employs force, is a much larger, more generous concept.
Here's a Thought page 24

Here light once landed like
a fly on a stallion's back,
a flapping honking flock
At the Lake page 19

For the first time I realized that there were marble pillars (steles) arrayed behind.
Monterey Veterans' Memorial page 15

The approach did help to control the growth of the plants to an extent, but warmer summer temperatures have contributed to the need for additional techniques to deal with the problem.
A Lake Garfield Update page 3

"It's no use, Mr. James. It's turtles all the way down."
Snapping Turtles page 22

Donate some items in good condition, come by to make a purchase, and watch our pollinator-friendly community grow more beautiful!
Monterey Tag Sale page 7

Need a new roof? New heating system? New doors and windows?
Housing Rehabilitation page 6

Once again this year we will not have set prices on the books, but ask that you give what you feel makes sense. We also ask that you bring a bag for the books that you purchase.
Book and Plant Sale page 8

If you haven't composted, now it is easier than ever. See you at the transfer station.
Composting at Transfer Station page 2

Anyone can dip into previous meetings now via a Monterey YouTube channel.
Letters- New Select Board page 5

A special town election to fill the remaining select board term (until next May 2022) created by the resignation of John Weingold, will be held on Tuesday, August 23, from noon to 7 p.m.
Special Town Election page 2

This is the moment to reflect on what the last twelve months have been like. Since the Delta and then Omicron variants emerged in July 2021, the majority of us have used sick leave or lost income from being exposed or infected.
Covid Trends-Moving Forward page 10

I am fortunate to enjoy the same view as my grandparents, but I worry about Lake Garfield's future with the effects of climate change.
Friends of Lake Garfield page 20

Well, here we are in North Dakota, two months after leaving Monterey on our "Great Adventure."
Beth and Dave's Travels pages 26-27

Today this ancient Viola da Gamba lives on here in Monterey—438 years old!—although without its strings or bow.
Monterey's Attic pages 12-13

Beginning anew, we have set a big agenda for the committee and for our joint efforts with the select board.
Letters- New Finance Committee page 5

Special Town Election
Select Board Seat

A special town election to fill the remaining select board term (until next May 2022) created by the resignation of John Weingold, will be held on Tuesday, August 23, from noon to 7 p.m.

The last day to submit nomination papers (a petition on which to gather nominating signatures) is Tuesday, July 5. The last day to file the nomination papers with the town clerk is two weeks later, on Tuesday, July 19. The last day to object to nomination papers, or to withdraw is Thursday, July 21.

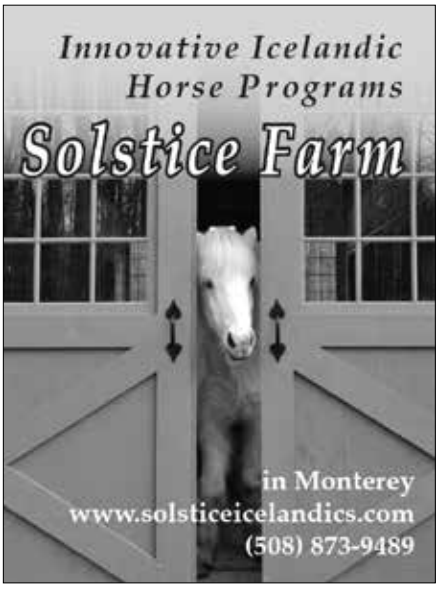
If you are unregistered, the last day to register to vote for this special election is on Wednesday, August 3.

Absentee ballots can be gotten arranged with the town clerk.

Candidate Statements and Letters

As with any town election, the *Monterey News* would be pleased to publish any letters from candidates for the select board seat, as well as any letters of support for a candidate from the readers. Statements and letters should be received no later than July 25.

—Stephen Moore



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New Composting at the Transfer Station

Food waste is a fact of life. Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day—from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. About 95% of the food we throw away ends up in landfills or combustion facilities.

Also, a fact we know all too well—food waste is smelly, wet, and heavy. It makes a mess out of the rest of the trash and is generally nasty. Better handling and separating it from the trash reduces waste, combats climate change, and enriches soil.

Why does this matter to Monterey?

In 2020, more than thirty-eight million tons of food waste was disposed of in the US. At the Monterey Transfer Station, the staff estimates that 30% of the trash that we throw away is food waste. By managing food sustainably, and reducing waste, Monterey can save money by keeping costs down, keep compostable materials out of landfills, and create healthier soil for our home flower and vegetable gardens.

We can do better.

Two years ago, Monterey started a food waste compost program working with Gould Farm and the MA Environmental Protection Agency Compost Initiative Group. This program was well received by our community and it is estimated, two to three tons of food waste was removed from our waste stream.

New state regulations imposed on Gould Farm have forced them to stop taking our food waste. Thanks for their years of this service.

The good news: We have found a new, local company that will pick up our food waste and truck it to a composting facility in Sheffield.

We have placed three containers next to the salt/sand shed at the transfer station. The containers are available any time the transfer station is open.

You can compost:

- Fruit and vegetables,
- Coffee grounds/filters,
- Tea or tea bags,
- Bread or grains,
- Paper towels,
- Cut flowers,
- Paper Napkins.

What cannot be composted:

- Meat/bones,
- Fish,
- Chemicals.

Thanks to all who have been participating. If you haven't composted, now it is easier than ever. See you at the transfer station.

—Ilene Marcus, Susan Cooper, and Kenn Basler

Start Composting at Home

For those of you who would like to start getting the benefits of finished compost for your own gardens, Bridgette Stone, Director of Education at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, will be giving a free one-hour workshop on home composting under the tent at the Monterey Community Center, Saturday August 13 at 10 am.

—Susan Cooper

Playground Survey

The Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission needs your help. We would like to construct a new playground system in Greene Park behind our town hall. You can assist us in achieving the goal by taking a moment to complete a very short survey. The information you provide will help in obtaining funds to make this project happen. Thank you in advance for your much needed cooperation.

Here are several ways to access the survey:

- Please click on the QR Code which will direct you to the online survey;
- Go to tiny.cc/MontereyPlayground-Survey;
- Or provide me your email and I will send you the survey.

Any questions, contact me at tjmensi@gmail.com.

Together we can make this happen!

—Tom Mensi

Monterey Parks Commission

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A Lake Garfield Update

At the 2022 annual town meeting on May 7, Monterey voters approved Article 29 which appropriated the sum of $50,000 to hire a certified lake scientist, and increased funding to help control the growth of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Lake Garfield. Over the past several years, a lake scientist has surveyed the presence of EWM and certified scuba divers were then hired to pull these aquatically rooted plants from the lake bottom. The approach did help to control the growth of the plants to an extent, but warmer summer temperatures have contributed to the need for additional techniques to deal with the problem.

So, this summer the effort to control these nuisance weeds is being expanded by using a mechanical harvester to cut the tops off the elongated EWM stems, and movable bottom fabric barriers to cover the weeds and essentially limit their growth by reducing the amount of sunlight the plants recieve to grow. With prior regulatory approval, both of these two additional methods, when combined with hand pulling by divers, should help to provide a more effective approach to control plant growth in Lake Garfield.

In a further effort to both monitor and help to sustain the health of Lake Garfield, the Friends of Lake Garfield have provided continued private funding to hire a biologist to collect seasonal water samples and identify the abundance and distribution of so-called cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, that grow in freshwater lakes, including Lake Garfield. These potentially toxic microscopic plants may go through rapid growth cycles called "blooms" depending on the amount of nutrients carried by stormwater, rainfall amounts, and temperatures in the water column during the summer season. If a bloom begins to occur, regulatory agencies are notified and immediate action is taken to alert and protect the public.

Additionally, Monterey received federal funding last fall through a state grant to use best management techniques to reduce the amount of nutrients in stormwater from flowing into Lake Garfield. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates are needed by EWM and other nuisance weeds as well as by blue-green algae to survive and grow in the freshwater lakes and streams. As part of a robust public information program, updates concerning this grant-funded project will be provided in future issues of the Monterey News.

It is also important to note that both the Monterey Lake Garfield Working Group and the Friends of Lake Garfield have played a major role in informing and working with the select board to monitor and improve the health of Lake Garfield.

Stay tuned and have a great summer season on Lake Garfield.

—Dennis Lynch

Monterey Grant Writer

August "Monterey News" May Be Late

The August issue of the *Monterey News* might not be available until early in the second week of August. Hopefully all the early August events can be found in this issue.

I'm happy to do the small jobs!

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Letters

The New Select Board

This letter is an observation on our new two-person select board with Justin Makuc, chairperson, in his second year, and Susan Cooper, recently voted onto the board, getting off to a good start.

I am sure that just about anyone who was paying attention to the functioning of the select board these past few years is aware that at times it was a barely functioning body. Much of this was due to the difficult nature of issues and events swirling around town government. I'm tempted to make a list, but inevitably readers would feel that something was missing, or not properly referred to, so I ask that you just think back to what you recall going on. Suffice to say, it's a long and complicated list.

The select board, as the executive authority for the town, also was hamstrung by older, incomplete, and sometimes unhelpful policies and procedures for dealing with conflicts.

Some of what made the board barely functioning was that in the midst of the contentiousness, the board often consisted of only two regularly attending members, with one member who sporadically did not attend or deliberately boycotted meetings. This left two board members who often had very different approaches on many difficult topics.

On a three-person board one member can be marginalized by being outvoted or not listened to. With a two-person board one option, which we witnessed, was deadlock on some questions—one-to-one votes that resolved little and heightened tension.

But another option, which I think is currently happening on our two-person board, is reaching for common ground and agreement through respect and listening. To listen to Makuc and Cooper work through various questions in front of an audience is to hear openness to the other person's thoughts and input and perspective. The opportunity to function this way is afforded by the reduction of the discord that the town has been experiencing for quite a while. This board has some breathing room.

And how are they using this breathing room? They are building new operational frameworks for town government. You can see for yourself by looking at the agendas and the posted minutes. (Go to MontereyMA.gov, and look under "Boards & Committees" / Select Board/ Agendas or Minutes.

Makuc and Cooper have taken forward-looking initiatives to address a broad range of needs in town government which the recent past, and the report of the investigation of complaints, made clear.

From the agenda for their very first meeting after elections, on May 11:

- Town Counsel proposals,
- Employee handbook proposals,
- Consider adopting a ten-point plan based on recommendations made by the Greene Report (see below),
- Consider adopting revised select board rules of order.

The following week's agenda, on May 18, included:

- Draft revised select board rules of order,
- Draft select board code of conduct,
- Draft ten-point plan based on recommendations made by the Greene Report.

On May 25:

- Discussion of employee mediation process and potential mediator candidates,
- Draft town organizational flow chart,
- Work on a communications policy between the board and various town employees.

More recent agendas reflect similar topics being addressed. (It should be noted that items listed on agendas may carry over for multiple meetings before resolution.)

In addition to addressing these town government policy and organizational needs, the board has interviewed for and appointed new town counsel after considering and interviewing multiple firms. The months-long effort by five towns to hire a shared human resources person has been successful. Meanwhile, the need for decisions on operational questions brought by the town administrator and other concerns are being heard and where possible, addressed.

Getting the Monterey News

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The *News* has been financed by voluntary contributions for over fifty years without a subscription.

Contact the *News* at MontereyNews9@gmail.com. P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

Ten Point Plan

The board has adopted a nine-point plan (not sure what point was dropped or consolidated) based on the recommendations from the Greene report. The plan has points under "Retain professional services for Human Resources," "Update and clarify Human Resources policies and procedures," "Reorganize Town Administrator position," and "Improve Select Board leadership." It is a roadmap for their current concerns.

The plan can be easily accessed from the town website, montereyma.gov, in the left-hand sidebar on the "Select Board" tab (under Boards & Committees.) The sidebar also contains links to newly adopted "Select Board Code of Conduct," and "Select Board Rules of Order."

Take the time to look at these documents.

Meeting Videos on YouTube

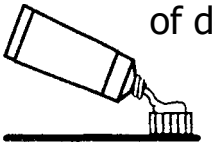
Anyone can dip into previous meetings now via YouTube. The town has its own channel, "Town of Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings," that lists meetings since the May election. Further searching for "Monterey select board meetings" will bring up recordings of prior meetings which are not included in the new town channel. (Note: the titling of the videos is not consistent making searches more difficult.) While it might not be the best audio or visual experience, the tenor of the board's interactions is very much evident.

—Stephen Moore

Editor's Note: This is a personal opinion statement, and not an editorial by the Monterey News*, which does not take positions on town affairs.*

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Letters

The New Finance Committee

Dear Neighbors,

The Monterey Finance Committee is pleased to welcome Frank Abbott, our newly elected member,

Beginning anew, we have set a big agenda for the committee and for our joint efforts with the select board. The finance committee will be updating the much talked about capital plan. We hope to become more familiar with the departments funded by town meeting and include and prioritize budget items.

We have also made some recommendations to the select board as to a code of conduct for FC as well as the ones adopted by the select board. These will be found in our minutes when approved. Further, we are reviewing draft policies and procedures for annual operating budget and purchasing.

We have most recently been advising the select board in the distribution of $270,000+ of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. We have recommended standardizing the application process for grants, including drafting a form which we hope will make it easier for applicants to describe their projects and get meaningful feedback. The finance committee is especially concerned with the impact these grants could have on the capital plan and the annual budget. That being said, we supported the select board granting funds to purchase a rescue vehicle and for a contribution toward the Southern Berkshire Ambulance purchase. Details of this will be found in select board minutes.

It has been gratifying to work with the current select board who have been diligent in doing the work required and engaging in meaningful discussion with citizens and other boards.

While we have been having joint meetings with the select board and juggling the inevitable summer schedules we anticipate returning to regularly scheduled meetings soon.

Thanks,

—Michele Miller
Chair, Monterey Finance Committee

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Letters

The *Monterey News* welcomes letters on a wide range of topics. Commentary on events and town affairs, notes of appreciation, or alerts for upcoming activities that might be of interest to Monterey readers.

Submit your letters to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.

Housing Rehabilitation Project
$1.3 Million Additional Funding

Need a new roof? New heating system? New doors and windows?

In 2019 and 2020, The Resource, Inc. (TRI) worked for the Town of Monterey to manage their FY18 Housing Rehabilitation Program funded with a grant award of MA Community Development Block Grant Funds. These funds benefited low- to moderate-income homeowners in the towns of Monterey, Egremont, and Sandisfield. Monterey residents benefited significantly from the various repairs that our program offers.

We are back! Effective June 15, 2022, we have an additional $1.3 million for the towns of Egremont, Great Barrington, and Monterey. Which means we are accepting applications for an additional twenty projects. We are looking forward to continuing assisting our residents and making critical repairs to their homes.

The maximum loan per unit has increased $10,000.

The income guidelines have increased significantly (see the chart below.)

2021 Income Eligibility Chart

Household Size	
1	$52,750
2	$60,250
3	$67,800
4	$75,300
5	$81,350
6	$87,350
7	$93,400
8	$99,400

Day Lily— B. Cox

A Sandisfield homeowner utilized the rehab grant program to remove the deteriorated and rotted siding at the rear of her home, replacing it with Hardi clapboards to match the existing siding. In addition to new siding, mold remediation was done, and she received new exterior trim and gutters.

Each income-eligible unit will qualify for up to $50,000 of moderate rehabilitation expense. Moderate rehabilitation includes, but is not limited to, roofing, siding, heating system, hot water heater replacement, electrical and plumbing issues, doors, windows, ingress and egress issues, and handicap accessibility improvements.

Not only are these loans at 0% interest, deferred payments, but they are forgivable on an annual basis until the end of the term, or the property is sold. In addition to the increase per unit, the income guidelines have increased significantly (see chart below.) If you previously were not within the income limits and think you now possibly could be with the increase, please contact me. If you need home repairs, have questions about the program, would like a copy of the new application, or need help filling out the application or gathering supporting documents, I would love to help. The funding will be on a first come, first served basis…. So don't wait!

Contact me: I can be reached by telephone at (413) 645-3448, or via email at dawn@theresource.org.

—Dawn Odell Lemon,
TRI, Inc. program manager.

A very happy recent homeowner from Great Barrington wrote:

"This program has been wonderful, improving the daily quality of our lives. The new heating system has significantly reduced our energy cost; due to the new roof, we no longer have leaks; and the new front and rear doors have made our home warm and cozy. This program was a godsend to me and my family. The work was done quickly and professionally. The crew was courteous and friendly. Everyone was a pleasure to work with. I will forever be grateful."

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Call to see if your home qualifies for a zero cost installation and equipment. Go green to save green!

Monterey Tag Sale
Items Needed!

The Monterey tag sale is Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center.

All items to be donated can be brought to the center on Friday, July 22, from noon to 2 p.m. If you cannot bring your items at that time, please call Myrna Rosen at (413) 528-9090 or (917) 446-9904 and we will try to make arrangements to accommodate you. All items are welcome except books. (Books can be donated to the library for the book sale on Saturday, July 30.) All the money collected from the tag sale will go to the Monterey Native Plants Working Group for educational activities and plant material.

So donate some items in good condition, come by to make a purchase, and watch our pollinator-friendly community grow more beautiful!

—Myrna Rosen

Galerie 271
A New Art Gallery

Gallerie 271, formerly John's Garage, next to the Roadside Café, has been transformed into an art gallery focusing on prominent local artists. By preserving and reimagining the old "paint room" with its unique lighting design, the space is now striking canvas for art installations.

For its inaugural exhibition, Gallerie 271 is delighted to present the artwork of Stephen Gerard Dietemann until July 29. The exhibition, *Intersection: Water & Land*, includes both Dietemann's *en plein air* watercolor paintings of the Berkshire region, as well as several of his larger, studio-based paintings based on the watercolors and his many treks through the region.

Galerie 271 will be open Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m., on July 9, 16, 23. Closing reception is on Friday, July 29, from 3 to 7 p.m. with live music and dancing.

—Dave Hattem
Galerie 271

ॐ

Janet Jensen

Pollinator raised beds

Watch them bloom! A raised bed of native plants will be getting more colorful and attractive to pollinators throughout the summer. The bed, at the north end of Lake Garfield Beach. was installed by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, with support from the parks commission and others. It's part of an ongoing effort to make Monterey a more pollinator friendly community. The plants are labeled and more information about them will soon be available. To keep abreast of related activities, please join our mailing list by contacting us at: pollinators01245@gmail.com.

And we hope to see you at our tag sale fundraiser at the community center on July 23.

—Janet Jensen

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Myrna Rosen

Friends of the Monterey Library
Book and Plant Sale

The library's book and plant sale will be held on Saturday, July 30, from 9 a.m. to noon at the library. Thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs will be available both indoors and outdoors. Once again this year we will not have set prices on the books, but ask that you give what you feel makes sense. We also ask that you bring a bag for the books that you purchase.

Don't forget to visit the plant sale as well, taking place during the book sale on Saturday, July 30, from 9 a.m. to noon. Once again, Clark's Nursery on Route 102 in Lee will be donating dozens upon dozens of annuals. We hope to have some native perennials available as well.

All proceeds will go to benefit the library's programs.

Please Help

We need book sale volunteers! The sign-up sheet will be posted in the library in early July. Indulge your inner bookseller by volunteering to help—or volunteer just because you love our library.

We are also in need of folding tables, any hand trucks you might have, and we could use an extra pop-up tent. If you have any of these to loan out, please email us at montereylibraryfriends@gmail.com.

The next Friends of the Monterey Library meeting will be held at the library on Monday, July 11, at 7 p.m. If you aren't already a library "Friend," email us at montereylibraryfriends@gmail.com to get on our Friends email list. A volunteer is a Friend indeed.

—Carey Vella
Friends of the Monterey Library

45th Annual Steak Roast
Saturday, July 30

Preparations are underway for one of Monterey's most beloved traditions: the Monterey Fire Company's annual steak roast. The forty-fifth annual steak roast will be held in person on Saturday, July 30, from 4 to 7 p.m., behind the firehouse, at 411 Main Road.

Whether this be your first or forty-fifth steak roast, we do hope you will join us.

Peter Poirier and his blues band will provide the live music.

If you are new to Monterey, then welcome! The Monterey Fire Company steak roast was started as the primary fundraiser to pay the mortgage on the firehouse. (The fire company owns the land and buildings, and the town owns most of the equipment, etc.) Over the years the steak roast has evolved from a rocking all-night party and main fundraiser to the consummate affordable family community summer picnic of Monterey.

Enjoy an evening of dinner and music with friends and neighbors while your firefighters cook for you. Steaks or shrimp and veggie kabobs are cooked over hardwood fires and served with a baked potato, corn on the cob, and a garden salad, with cake and ice cream for dessert. Hamburgers and hot dogs are available à la carte. Beer and wine are available.

Tickets are available at our website: montereyfire.org. If you have difficulty with purchasing tickets online, call us at (413) 528-3136, email us at montereyfireco@gmail.com, or stop by the fire station. Whichever way you choose, we assure you—you won't go hungry!

Dining will be in person at the Monterey Fire Company pavilion. We will have the tables spread out much more than in the past. As in the past, uncooked dinners will be available from noon until 4 p.m. We also will serve take-out meals upon request from 4 to 7 p.m.

—Felix Carroll

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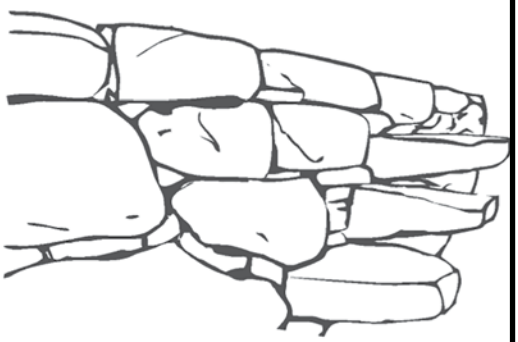

Monterey Community Center
Summer Events

The Monterey Community Center welcomed several new speakers and programs in June.

We started off with a new type of yoga, "Yoga Nidra," with Nancy Monk. Barbara Cohen taught mahjong. A bird-watching walk with Joe Baker and Cindy and Rob Hoogs had quite a large group attend. Among the various birds along the walk, they were able to hear the call of a black-billed cuckoo, and that was unusual indeed. Jamie McDermott gave us lessons on "Understanding and Improving Your Posture." Devan Arnold from Sassafras Land Care, hosted by the Free the Tree/ Native Plants working group, spoke about invasive plants, how to get rid of them, and how to plant native species for regenerative landscaping.

Ann Getsinger held three Wednesdays of painting classes. She started with a group of seven for *en plein air* painting. She was "a wonderful, supportive instructor with a lot of insight about landscape painting," according to one of the attendees.

Coming Events

Diabetes support group: Wednesday, July 6, at 1 p.m. The group held their first meeting under the tent in late June and will meet again on July 6. This group is led by Bob Carlson and Roberta Epstein. New folks are welcome. The plan for now is to meet every two weeks.

What's Happening: Monday, July 11, 4 to 5 p.m. Maggie Barkin will be back on some Monday afternoons hosting the Monterey Cultural Council "What's Happening" events. Melanie Brandston from Gould Farm will speak, perhaps with an update on Roadside Café.

Monday, July 18. "What's Happening" will host Janet Jensen and Don Barkin who will discuss "Poetry and Nature" under the tent. No need to preregister.

Tai chi: Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. Tai chi with David Crowe is accepting new members. Just show up. The cost is $30 per month.

Natural remedies: An herbalist is coming to teach us about using herbs for natural remedies. Stay tuned for the date, cost, and registration info. Check our website at ccmonterey.org

Galina Vromen: Thursday, July 21, from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Author Galina Vromen will present a lecture, "Gained in Translation," on her work in Israel. Israel often makes the news over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but Galina will be teaching us how it promotes literacy with programs that assure that 80% of children in Israeli public schools receive free books from the ages of three to five for a home library. In fact, it operates the largest book-gifting program in Arabic in the world. Monterey summer resident Galina Vromen created and operated two book programs (one in Hebrew and one in Arabic) in Israel for more than a decade. These programs, inspired by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and affiliated with the Harold Grinspoon foundation's PJ Library, won the best-practices-in-literacy award from the US Library of Congress. Galina will talk about the challenges she faced in founding the growing programs in the context of Israel's complex, divisive society.

This program is free but please preregister.

Friday, September 23, from 4 to 5 p.m. Galina will present again with this question: What would have happened if the biblical Abraham had told his wife Sarah of his plans to sacrifice their son, Isaac? That is the starting point of "Sarah's Story," written by Galina Vromen, which has been a selection of NPR's Selected Shorts program. You are invited to hear a reading by the author of her maverick take on this biblical story.

Pauline Dongala: Saturday, August 13, at 7 p.m. Pauline, a local resident who is originally from the Republic of Congo will be speaking. She will share stories of the very first school in her village, the village of Bikie and her most recent trip to Africa. That same night, Leni and Mike from the Old Stone Mill Center in Adams will talk about their collaboration with Pauline. With their leadership, the Mill was able to send twenty-six bikes with sturdy racks to the Daniel M. Milondo Primary School in Bikie.

Marshall Messer concert: Saturday August 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. Join us under the MCC tent when Monterey's own Marshall Messer and the Desperate Catskill Mountain Boys will hold a concert!

For questions, or to register for events, contact Mary Makuc at (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Mary Makuc
Monterey Community Center

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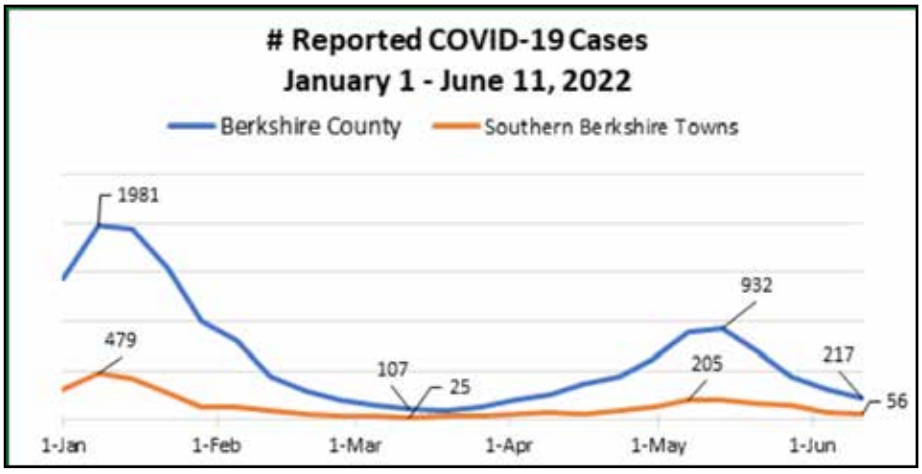
Covid Trends and Moving Forward

As of June 22, for the fifth week in a row, new Covid-19 cases in southern Berkshire County have gone down and overall our county is now at the Low/Green level of CDC "Community Covid-19 Impact." Community transmission of the virus has dropped by two-thirds since early May. Other local indicators also point to a decline. While reported case numbers are still about double our lowest numbers so far this year from mid-March, this is all great news, for several reasons.

1) Less Covid virus circulating in the community= Safer events and socializing in general this summer. Folks at high risk for severe disease and their household members are still better off masking with a KN95 if they'll be indoors for extended periods with those outside their social circle, but for everyone else, this is probably as worry-free of a time as we'll have for a while.

2) **Low summer transmission=** A better starting point for the *likely* wave of new infections we'll see this fall and winter. Infections from Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5 continue to grow in the Northeast and around the country. They have evolved to better escape our vaccine- and natural infection-derived immunity by a long shot. Starting with fewer cases in September means a slower rate of growth, at least initially.

3) Low community viral levels= Time to get up to speed with vaccinations and boosters before fall.



Vaccinations Recommendations

•Everyone six months and up is now eligible for the primary series.

•Everyone five years and up is eligible for a booster (five months since last shot).

•Everyone who is immune-compromised or over fifty is eligible for a second booster (four months since first booster).

•Those who received J&J as their primary vaccine have been shown to have very little protection against infection with an Omicron variant of the virus and are highly recommended to receive a Pfizer or Moderna booster ASAP.

Our Recent Experience

This is the moment to reflect on what the last twelve months have been like. Since the Delta and then Omicron variants emerged in July 2021, the majority of us have used sick leave or lost income from being exposed or infected. Many of our kids missed a week or more of school for the same reasons, often with minimal symptoms. And sadly, a large number of our older loved ones found themselves alone, frighteningly sick at home or in a nursing home, or even needing to be hospitalized. In South County alone, over twenty people died of Covid-related causes in the past year.

Moving Forward

Our initial conception of the Covid-19 vaccines – that they would be a magic bullet to eradicate the virus forever and return our lives to "normal" – needs to be updated, at least until we see another technological breakthrough. What the original vaccine formulations (and the newer ones being studied now) have achieved is a massive reduction in our risk of hospitalization and death. As the virus continues to evolve in its transmissibility and symptoms, we need to evolve our thinking as well. So far, most people have experienced Covid-19 as only a cold or flu. But over 1 million US residents have died – our Covid and excess death

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rate far exceeds most other countries in our income bracket. And we still don't know exactly why this virus sometimes randomly attacks the bodies of otherwise young and healthy people, even infants, the way it does. Heck, half of children under 5 who have been hospitalized for Covid have had no prior health issues at all. And despite the loud, often wildly inaccurate voices of the highly organized anti-vaxx movement, the reality is that short- and long-term risks of vaccination are just a tiny fraction of the short- and long-term health risks of contracting the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. Scientific research continues to confirm this, over and over, but it can be hard to hear amidst the anti-vaxx noise.

This summer is a good time to buy yourself and your loved ones some time. Time to travel, time to attend an important event, time to relax a little. We all deserve that. And to get vaccinated/boosted.

Stay well,

—Amy Hardt, MPH MAA RN
Regional Public Health Nurse Leader
Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative

Addendum:

This was received as part of a new dashboard received while the current issue was being composed:

State Home Vaccinations Program

If you have difficulty getting your vaccine or booster for whatever reason, consider the state home vaccinations program, which seems to be operating very efficiently. Registering for an appointment online is quick, and they guarantee to come out within one week to administer the shot—for free. There is no requirement that you are homebound, just that you have difficulty accessing a vaccine provider, which could be for a variety of reasons, and which they do not ask you to specify. This program currently provides shots to children ages five and up, too, so the whole family could get their booster at the same time. To learn more, call (833) 983-0485, M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or use the online scheduler at patientportalma.com.

Dawn Lemon!

New Hot Dog Joint in the Neighborhood!

Bubs Beans and the Dogs, a hot dog cart operated by three local kids, will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays (weather pending), from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inspired by a lemonade stand last summer, Ethan, 11, Olivia 9, and Lyla, 10 (above) ,are taking on a new enterprise serving up delicious Muckie hot dogs, scrumptious "New Boston Baked Beans," and of course chips, soda, and cookies too!

This is a great chance for folks around here or passing by on Route 8 to get a quick bite to eat in their back yard or along the road. So, if you are driving by, hungry for lunch, stop by for a chili cheese dog, a New York dog, or a "Naked" if that's your preference. Adjusted to your liking! Friendly faces, excellent service, and tasty quality eats. Enjoy your dogs at picnic tables under awnings. They've even been known to sing or dance for a tip into their college funds! Look for them at 87 Main Street (Route 8, by New Boston Crane south of the bridge), in Sandisfield.

—Dawn Odell Lemon

Contributions for June 2022

The folks listed below joined many others who have already responded to the spring annual fund appeal. If you're reading this because you picked up a free copy of the *Monterey News* around town, we hope you'll also help to keep "this boat afloat."

Included with a free pickup copy this month is a yellow letter making contributions that much simpler. Or you can always just send a check to Monterey News, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

Enjoy the "free" paper!

Gerry & Hank Alpert
John Callahan
Dennis & Elaine Lynch
Nancy Ratner
Doreen Beller
Cynthia Chang
Al & Myrna Schneiderman
Ken & Judi Kalmanson
Gail & Paul Padalino
Carlo & Margaret Romairone
Roberta Weiss
Tom Litwack
Julie & Frank Kern
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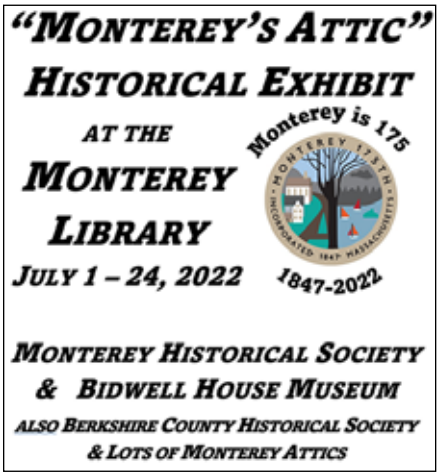
"Monterey's Attic"
Historical Exhibit Opens July 1

The Monterey Historical Society is excited to invite everyone to the historical exhibit at the Monterey Library from July 1 to July 24. The exhibit is titled "Monterey's Attic" and includes a potpourri of items from the collection of the Monterey Historical Society, Bidwell House Museum, Berkshire County Historical Society (Arrowhead), and lots of goodies on loan from Montereyans. *Thanks for scouring your attics.* We have some really beautiful local paintings, quilts, photos, interesting artifacts and mementos, and some unusual stories.



The opening reception will be held at the library on Friday, July 1, from 7 to 8 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there and to hearing some of your stories.

The exhibit will be open for viewing during the library's normal hours.

The following article provides a "sneak peak" at one of the interesting items you'll see at the historical exhibit:

This Old Viola Has Remarkable History

A viola da gamba which is believed by its owner and his friends to have been made in Italy in 1584, and to be the oldest instrument of its kind in this country, was recently found in the garret of Dr. John J. Orton's residence, at Lakeville, Conn., by some carpenters who were repairing the house. The instrument had lain there for more than a quarter of a century and the doctor had forgotten its existance.

The viola belonged to his father and his father's father, and when his father died and the property was appraised he bought it for $1 and stowed it away in the garret. Now he is showing it to his friends as an interesting heirloom.

The old viola is fairly well preserved for its 318 years, but is cracked in several places and is minus bridge and bow and strings. It measures four feet eight inches from the top of the scroll to the rest at the bottom of the body. The body is three feet long. It is two feet wide at the bottom and nineteen inches at the top and is seven inches deep.

As to how the viola got from Italy to Tyringham, this is the way of it as vouched for by tradition. One hundred years ago there was a famous hostelry in New York, conducted by Charles and Thomas Orton, and here Captain William Churchill made his home on his return from his voyages to the Mediterranean with cotton, Yankee notions, and other merchandise. Here his wife lived during his absence at sea.

She was an invalid and formed a strong attachment for Miss Beulah Orton, of Tyringham. So strong was the affection between the sea captain's wife and the country girl that when Mrs. Churchill was about to die she exacted a promise from her friend to marry her husband after she had gone.

Miss Orton fulfilled the promise later by marrying the captain. The wedding was celebrated in the bride's native village and while the wedding guests were at the farmhouse the bride's father, Azariah Orton, brought out his violin and entertained the people.

The captain was delighted with his father-in-law's musical proficiency and told him that he had picked up a big fiddle in the course of barter on his last trip to Italy and he proposed to send it to him as a token of his respect as a son-in-law. The viola was sent to the farm and Mr. Orton was soon able to play on it and proposed to use it in the church to lead the choir, as previously they had had no musical instrument there.

There was considerable excitement among the staid people of Tyringham when the big fiddle was first played in the church. According to the strict religious teachings of some of the old New England folk, instrumental music at meeting was considered a profanation of the house of worship and a device of the Evil One to lead souls away from the straight path. One Ephraim Williams, an elder, declared that the use of the fiddle would be a backsliding from the ways of their fathers, for since the congregation was organized in 1749 there had been no instrumental music in the church.

A number of the congregation held a similar view, but the Bidwells, the Jacksons and the Ortons were in favor of the innovation. Was not Colonel Giles Jackson's father, John Jackson, the first deacon elected in the church? And was not the Rev. Adonijah Bidwell the first minister, he who delivered all his sermons from manuscript and handed down the manuscripts to posterity? So, the friends of the viola prevailed and Azariah Orton led off the choir with its music until full of years he was gathered to his fathers.

a Viola da Gamba.

Now, you're asking, "what's a Viola da Gamba?" It's similar to a cello but has six strings instead of the cello's four, and has frets to make it easier to play. Viols come in many shapes and sizes but they are held vertically between the legs; therefore the Italians called the instrument "viola da gamba," literally a "leg fiddle!"

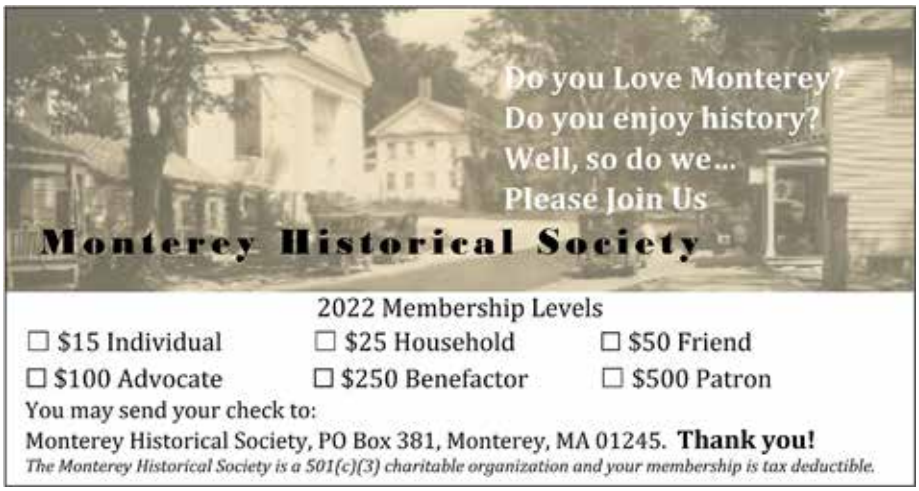
So what's so special about it and why is it here in Monterey? Now that's quite a story … and was printed in newspapers across the country in 1902-03.

According to the newspaper accounts, the viola "is believed to have been made in Italy in 1584." It was "recently [1902] found in the garret of Dr. John J. Orton's residence at Lakeville, Conn." Note: He was a descendant of the Ortons who were early settlers of Monterey/Tyringham. "An inscription was discovered inside the instrument, part of which reads as follows: "G. Bellini ann. 1584 Napoli."

The article continues, "The old viola is fairly well preserved for its 318 [now 438] years … It measures four feet eight inches from the top of the scroll to the rest at the bottom."

"As to how the viola got from Italy to Tyringham, this is the way of it as vouched for by tradition." Captain William Churchill owned several vessels which he sailed between New York City and the Mediterranean with cotton, Yankee notions, and other merchandise. While he was away on journeys, his wife, Mary, lived at a hostelry at 22 Fulton Street in New York City, owned by Charles and Thomas Orton. Mary became friends with the owners' sister, Beulah Orton. Note: Thomas, Charles, and Beulah were all children of Azariah Orton, Jr., of Tyringham (Monterey).

Mary became ill but before she died, "she extracted a promise from her friend (Beulah Orton) to marry her husband after she had gone. Miss Orton fulfilled the promise by marrying the Captain."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Tyringham, Beulah's "Native village." "While the guests were at the [Orton's] farmhouse … Azariah Orton brought out his violin and entertained the guests." Captain Churchill was "delighted with his father-in-law's musical proficiency" and sent Azariah "a big fiddle" he had picked up in a barter on his "last trip to Italy."

"Mr. Orton was soon able to play" the big fiddle and "proposed to use it in the church to lead the choir as previously they had no musical instrument there. There was considerable excitement among the staid people of Tyringham when the big fiddle was first played in the church." Prior to that, no music had been played in the church; it was considered by some to be sinful. "I remember the music of the big fiddle in our church when old Uncle 'Riah Orton used to play on it,' said M.S. Bidwell of Monterey, age 80 (at the time) in a letter to Dr. Orton. Note: this would have occurred at the second church building in "Old Center."

During her twenty years of marriage to Captain William Churchill, Beulah (Orton) Churchill accompanied her husband on twenty-two of his voyages. He named one of his ships "Tyringham" in honor of her birthplace. Beulah died in 1851, aged 51 years. Her musical father, Azariah, lived until 1854, age 93.

Today this ancient Viola da Gamba lives on here in Monterey—438 years old!—although without its strings or bow.

—Rob Hoogs
Monterey Historical Society

Blueberries—B. Cox

Summer at the Knox Gallery

Our loyal Knox Gallery and Monterey Library devotees were treated to a special event on June 18. Thank you to Alan Roland (our exhibiting artist through June 25), and to his family and friends for bringing in a jazz trio to play in conjunction with *Alan Roland: Smalls*. The artist wanted to provide some of the authentic flavor of the "Smalls" club, which Roland captured in his art. Prominent musicians Yaala Ballin (vocals), Zaid Nasser (saxophone), and Roland's son Ari (bass) filled our space with music, which was enjoyed by a standing-room-only crowd! (See Natalie Manzino's response to the concert on page 23.) Our community is fortunate to have had three such prominent musicians take a break from performing in far-flung spots around the world to play for us in Monterey. (For more information about the musicians, please see the June issue of the *Monterey News*.)

The Knox Gallery is pleased to have been able to provide the rich interdisciplinary experience that Alan Roland imagined. It was a pleasure to demonstrate the close affinity of diverse art forms: the music shows through the drawings and paintings, and the images of a different time and place emanate from the music.

Special thanks to Tika Roland and Paul dePreter for help in making this event happen.

Monterey's Attic runs through July, and will close just before the library holds our annual book sale on July 30. The following week, *Julie Shapiro: Interleave* will open on August 4.

Deborah Freedman

In 2019 Shapiro (above right), champion and co-director of Knox Gallery, received a Martha Boschen Porter Grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation to make a series of prints at a professional print shop, working with a master printer Marjorie VanDyke at VanDeb Editions in Long Island City, NY. She used several different etching techniques, on copper plates, and worked on a series of prints over several sessions. After a long break (the pandemic) she recently returned to the print shop and completed some of the images that she had started over two years ago. Those prints form the center of this exhibition. Look for more information in the August *Monterey News*.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Memorial Day Commemoration

Rob Hoogs delivered an address during the Memorial Day parade from the steps of the church. Below is the text of his address (abbreviated).

I have the honor of addressing this gathering to remind us why we are all here.

You'll notice I'm dressed in colonial garb and marching with the Bidwell House Museum group, which honors the pioneers who founded this community over two hundred eighty years ago, and the townspeople who joined together as Monterey 175 years ago. But these important anniversaries are not the main reason we are here today.

Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the military. Many of those same community leaders fought—and some of them died—in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. And generations of their descendants fought and died in later military conflicts: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

This is who we are here today to commemorate.

Today, we here are gathered to express devotion to our brave men and women who fought and died defending our freedom. We will follow the ancient custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers.

This morning, a ceremony was held at Veterans' Park during which a wreath was laid commemorating the soldiers who died in all of the wars. Three additional wreaths will now be placed by six of the town children as a symbol of our respect.

Placing a wreath at the Roll of Honor in front of the library (at left), dedicated to the soldiers from World War I, are Roberto Chait and Thalia Chait.

Parade announcer, Andrew Shaw, and Rob Hoogs on the church steps.

The second wreath will be placed into the Konkapot River in memory of the sailors and marines who died at sea by Pip Amidon Castille and Kayli Vella.

The third wreath will be placed at the memorial in front of town hall honoring the soldiers from World War II, by Phoebe Tryon and Simone Ryan Waiveris.

—Rob Hoogs

The Parade Line of March

The Color Guard
Mike Dalton, Pipe Major of the Berkshire Highlanders
Celebrating Monterey's 175th Anniversary: Birthday Cake
Monterey Select Board
Monterey Library sponsored by the Friends of the Monterey Library
Gould Farm
Our Lady of the Hills Chapel
The Monterey News
Mount Everett Golden Eagle Marching Band
Bidwell House Museum
Monterey Fire Department
The Farm New Marlborough
Hume New England
Monterey Community Center and Native Plants Working Group
Gymnastics Unlimited Performance Team 2022
Monterey Coffee Club
New England Antique Fire Trucks
Ed Harvey
New Marlborough Fire Department
Solstice Farm Icelandic Horses

(Note: We did not receive photos of every participating group in the parade. Sorry about that.)

Special thanks to:

Radius Crane and Rigging—Flying the American flag
Andrew Shaw—Announcing the parade
Hume New England—Cooking and serving food after the parade
Peter Poirier—Music at the Firehouse
Monterey's 175th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee

Monterey is 175!
We've only just begun...
1847-2022

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, July 30th
Book Sale & Steak Roast
Friday, August 5th
Community Contra Dance
Saturday, August 6th
Lake Fest

Monterey Veterans' Memorial

At the request of the editor for photographs, I drove over to the Veterans Memorial at the corner of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road. I live in the area and realized that I had passed this spot thousands of times and had never before stopped to actually see it. It is a lovely and peaceful spot, with benches allowing one to sit and think and reflect. As I photographed the main stone surrounded by flags and plaques depicting each war (front page), for the first time I realized that there were marble pillars (steles) arrayed behind. Each of the four pillars listed the wars the US had fought and the names of members of the community who were veterans of those wars.

It was sobering and moving to think about the human cost of war and the brave sacrifices of the patriots whose names were carved here. I was reminded of the words of Pete Seeger's song, "When will we ever learn, when will we ever learn." In these difficult times for our nation and the world, it reminded me that we all need to do whatever we can to protect the democracy that these veterans fought for.

—Natalie Manzino

Editor's Note: Most years someone sends in the words spoken, or photos from the morning ceremony on Memorial Day, but this year no one did. Natalie was willing to take some photos and found herself moved by discovering this landmark she'd passed so many times before. A moving follow-up to the Memorial Day ceremony, and perhaps many in the area were unaware of the full extent of the memorial.

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Open Call

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Summer Sunday mornings
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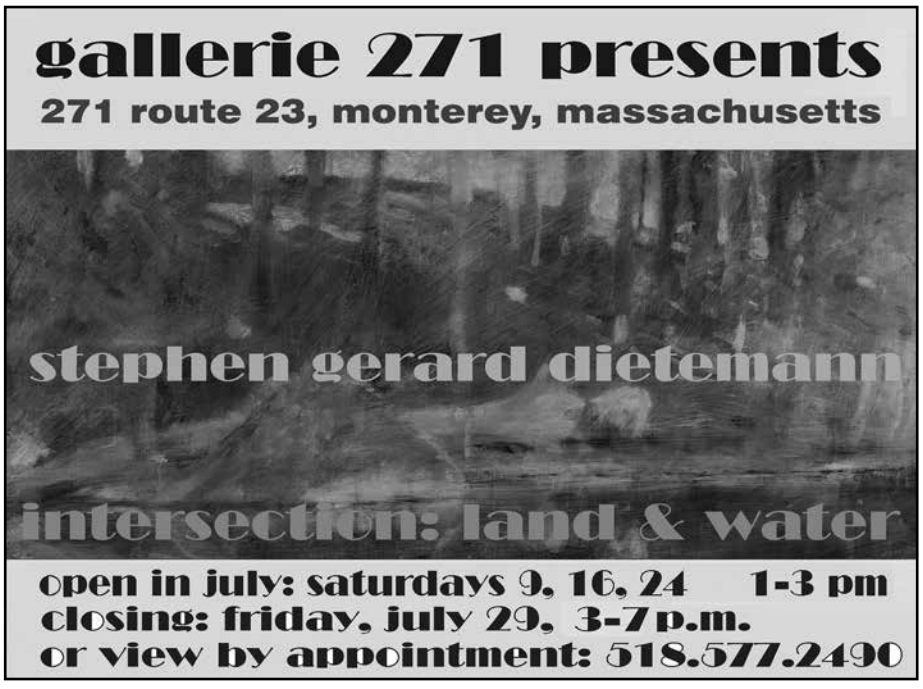
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1. The color guard with Julio Rodriquez carrying the US flag.

2. Mike Dalton, pipe major of the Berkshire Highlanders preceeding the 175th anniversary banner and birthday cake.

3. Our two-person select board with Susan Cooper up front and Justin Makuc in the back in Matt Vella's pickup.

4. The Friends of the Monterey Library created this float, with Esther Heffernan reading and waving.

5. Gould Farm came next with Eric Martin playing his fiddle.

6. Our Lady of the Hills chapel.

7. The Mount Everett Golden Eagle band.

8. Rob Hoogs waving from the Bidwell House Museum float.

9. Some of the women from the cultural council.

11. Tom Brazie, The Farm New Marlborough was followed by Hume New England.

12. The Monterey Community Center featured a maypole representing many of the activities. The Native Plants group carried a placard.

13. Gymnastics Unlimited Performance Team 2022.

10. Once again the fire company had to rush off to a call just before the parade got underway. Fortunately they were able to return quickly and rejoin the parade.

Bonner McAllester led the Monterey News *contingent.*

The *Monterey News* wishes to thank the folks who sent in photos from Memorial Day that appear on this page and elsewhere in this issue.

Devorah Sawyer
Suzanne Sawyer
Steve Gilbert
Anna Sophia Poirier
Jeff Zimmerman
Rob Hoogs

14. At the end of the parade were two Icelandic ponies from Solstice Farm.

Folks who made it to the firehouse after the parade gathered out on the grass for a large group photo. Justin Makuc climbed up the fire company ladder for the shot. If anyone would like a large-format, high-resolution digital copy, please contact MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

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Mid-August

At noon our street looked like a barren shore
the tide had tugged the sea from like a sheet.
An oak kept watch beside our wooden door,
and neither of them saw that wasted street.

I've often sunk like this—then felt ashamed,
and wondered whether everybody knew,
and if a dreamy child would be blamed
for blurting out, "Which world is it that's true?"

In time, it didn't bother me a bit
a wooden look was all the word I'd get
(yet plenty to upend my native wit).
Plus who was there to tell? And what? And yet.

—Don Barkin

Waiting

The stranded mind scans the mastless sea
waiting for the doctor to be free,
and meanwhile wondering what white-coated
sleight-of-hand revives the weak or bloated
beyond that silent door? The more you wait
the more you dream its magic must be great—

and dream where there is magic that can cure,
a silent world lies leagues beneath the roar
of shuttling time where nurse and doctor stride
through oozy woods remote from wind and tide,
and lit like milk. The nurse stands at the door
and calls you to come in and wait some more,

and you rise up behind her amorously
like a swimmer carried out to sea.

—Don Barkin

Free Poetry-Reading Class

A class for people who want to read poetry with more confidence and pleasure is being offered by Monterey resident Don Barkin this summer. Three sessions remain in the free course, which meets in the Monterey Library, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The July classes will be on Tuesdays July 5, 12, and 19. The course is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council.The class is open to adults eighteen and over. The packet of poems being discussed is on file at the library and can be copied there for free.

No experience is necessary. The class will read good poems, old and new, and learn about the poets and about poetic forms, such as the ballad and the sonnet. The main activity will be discussion of the poems, and comments will be welcome from all.

Three collections of Barkin's poems have been published and are available at the library. He has taught writing at Yale, Wesleyan, and Connecticut College. He was educated at Harvard and Cambridge universities.

Anyone who has questions about the class can email me.

—Don Barkin,
barkindon@gmail.com

At the Lake

Here light once landed like
a fly on a stallion's back,
a flapping honking flock,
the first word God spoke.
Then lengthened like spilled milk,
like a lover on her back.

Now it's a ski-loud lake,
words crumble like stale cake.
To a mind that's walked the plank
itself is what it's like.
And the sky above it blank,
and beneath that sky, your bank.

—Don Barkin

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Friends of Lake Garfield

In the late 1920s, my grandfather, Dr. Alfred Emmel, purchased two building lots on Lake Garfield from Nellie Bogart and the Berkshire Bungalow Company. He had previously built a cabin on Yankee Lake in New York, but it was too shallow for his liking. On Lake Garfield he built a small summer cabin consisting of one large room with a small bunk room on each side and a large porch overlooking the lake. As I sit on this porch today, I think about how fortunate I am to enjoy the same view as my grandparents, but I worry about Lake Garfield's future with the effects of climate change.

For thirty-five years I have been able to travel around the world with my husband, Cary—a *National Geographic* photographer. Together with our son we have seen the effects of changing climates in Australia, South America, Africa, Asia, and our hometown on the south shore of Massachusetts. As an avid gardener there, I am keenly aware of the severe rains and droughts we are experiencing and the effects of phosphorus from roadway runoff and other sources on our water resources. I try, as best as I can, to help and support organizations that are working to save our environment.

And to that end I have been supporting Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) by designing and managing the website and, this year, becoming a member of the board of directors.

Friends of Lake Garfield was formed over fifty years ago and has been a non-profit organization since 2015 with our mission of maintaining the health, welfare, and enjoyment of Lake Garfield.

A slice of heaven on earth, Lake Garfield benefits its year-round and summer residents as well as the residents of Monterey and visitors to the Berkshires. We are blessed to have this very special lake, but to keep Lake Garfield healthy requires constant monitoring. Friends of Lake Garfield is continuing its cost sharing commitment by partnering with the Town of Monterey, the Lake Garfield Work Group (LGWG), and the state and federal governments to accomplish our goals. However, we cannot do so without the sustained financial support of voluntary donations from individuals in the community.

To better understand what Friends of Lake Garfield does and why we urge you to donate to our cause, we share the following summary of FLG activities and accomplishments that your donations support and sustain:

1. We monitor the lake health through annual surveys and testing by a lake scientist to assure its safety for public enjoyment.

2. We take actions to mitigate invasive species from our lake. Fortunately, we do not have zebra mussels. Unfortunately, we do have milfoil, an invasive weed species that will continue to spread and threaten the health of the lake unless it is diligently and consistently monitored and mitigated. FLG advocated with the state and town to approve and help fund DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) of the milfoil in the spring and fall annually. DASH has made significant progress in reducing the presence of milfoil as a method of control, but it must continue, or the milfoil will spread further and threaten lake health.

3. Milfoil, and weeds in general, thrive on nutrients like phosphorus. These nutrients mostly enter the lake from the watershed (streams) during periods of heavy rain and snow melt. Friends of Lake Garfield works with the town and state to mitigate the storm water runoff by supporting grant applications. To help reduce phosphorus levels in the lake, we match funds with the town to obtain and place retention devices and rain gardens.

4. With global warming, cyanobacteria blooms (which thrive on phosphorus) have become more and more common. Some forms of cyanobacteria can be toxic to animals and humans. Friends of Lake Garfield tests weekly in the summer for the presence of cyanobacteria to ensure safety for swimming and water sports. We partner with the EPA and the Western Mass LAPA (Lakes and Ponds Association) to monitor cyanobacteria.

Friends of Lake Garfield depends on donations and volunteers. We've found that we can count on residents around the lake and throughout Monterey for both. To meet new challenges, I ask that you please help us keep Lake Garfield healthy by making a donation via our website FriendsofLakeGarfield.org where we provide you with information about our many projects, upcoming events, visiting, and using the lake as well as its history and ecology.

Happy Summer and thanks for your support!

—Barbara Emmel Wolinsky

(Many thanks to Greg Carnese for the FLG history and projects information.)

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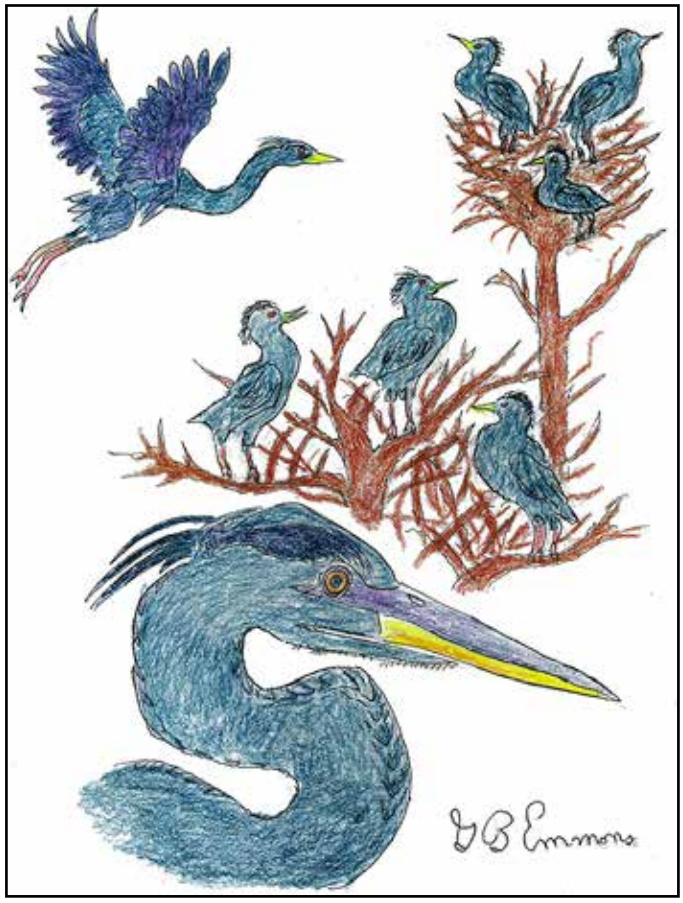
The Majestic Great Blue Heron

The great blue heron wading in shallow shoreline waters makes a lasting impression on every birdwatcher. The stalking heron cautiously takes one step at a time with head and neck drawn back in a serpentine shape ready to spring forward in a flash to spear and retrieve an innocent target. Having riled up the solitude of peaceful water it will often take wing to a more promising location, stretching out to a six-foot length with its head and neck stretched out forward and its long wading legs trailing out behind as in my illustration. Once flight is fully achieved, it will slowly furl its neck into an 's' shape.



The great blue heron is right at home in both fresh and salt water habitats, and in both still and moving water, working along the shores or out in the middle. It will eat a wide menu of anything found there within striking distance. This selection includes small mammals, reptiles, toads, insects, and even young birds. They can spear and maneuver surprisingly large fish to swallow head first. Inland beaver dams create shallow wading ponds, and stream-side pools far and wide in the landscape over most of New England. People who have backyard koi (colorful Asian carp) ponds have watched herons eat every fish in minutes.

Great blue herons nest mainly in trees but often take advantage of existing structures such as artificial platforms built for ospreys. Males collect most of the material by gathering sticks, moss, reeds, and salt grass, to be presented to the female when she arrives. In just a short time she will be able to finish a substantial nest several feet across. Herons often nest in large colonies called rookeries. Rookeries are generally located in groups of standing dead trees in the middle of wetlands as protection against predators like raccoons who can climb trees. Bald eagles are significant predators of the chicks.

The latest North American heron survey estimates a population range between 80,000 to perhaps 150,000 of North American breeding birds. They are found all over the continent. They can be seen all summer long, but in autumn studies have shown that many migrate much further south than most other waterfowl.

They have been seen by some as symbols of a healthy water conditions. The Algonquin name for the heron translates as "Spirit of the water." Their observation, as captured by this name, seems to connote the heron as a sacred symbol, a kindred feeling we can all relate to while watching them.

— George B. Emmons

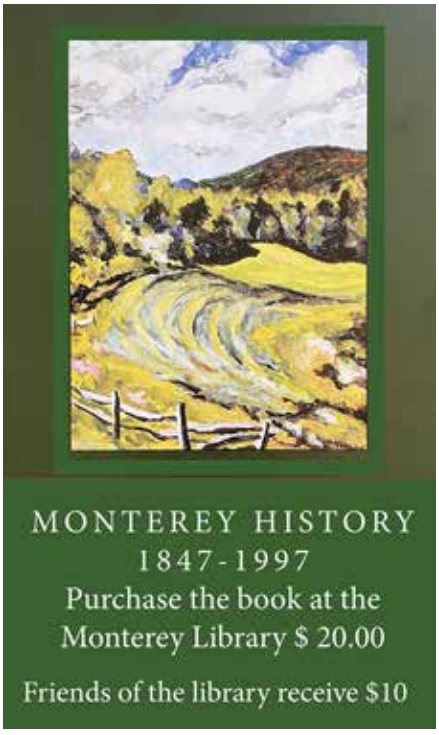
Siberian Iris—B. Cox

A Surprising Heron Observation

Years ago, on my thirty-minute drive between home and the small elementary school in Vermont where I taught, I passed a wetland pond daily. One spring I watched as a pair of herons built a nest on the last standing "snag," a dead tree, in the middle of the pond. They successfully hatched four chicks. On days when I left home early enough, or when there was enough daylight heading back home, I would stop and watch them closely through my binoculars.

A nest full of nearly fledging heron chicks is a tight situation. They have to stand so close together, perching up on the rim of the loosely built nest while they await their next meal. One morning, as I was watching them closely through my glasses, one of the chicks lost its balance and began to tip out of the nest. I clearly observed as one of the other chicks, with a lightning quick move, grabbed it by the neck and brought it back safely upright. The chicks as they approach fledging are in peril from falling into the water below. I have no idea if the behavior I witnessed is a not-uncommon occurrence, but it certainly stands out for me as a once-in-a-lifetime observation.

— Stephen Moore

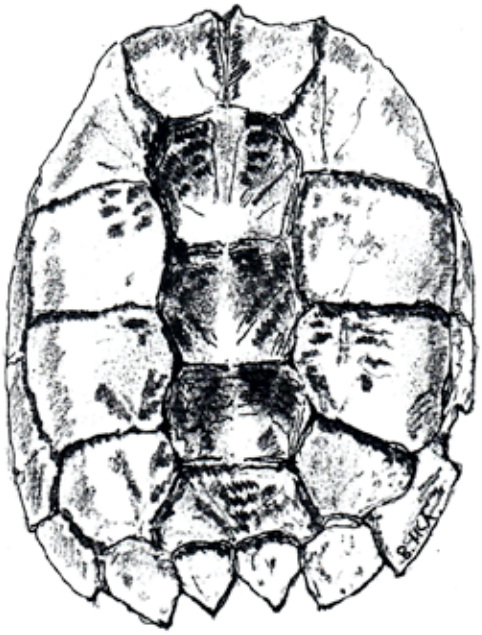


Snapping Turtles, Ten Million More Years

Our familiar snapping turtles have been up out of the lakes laying their eggs, often in the soft ground of domestic vegetable gardens, but also on many a sunny gravel bank. How does she decide how far to walk, whether to go back to the same place she went last year, or to the place she herself hatched out months or years ago? We have been asking these questions of the mighty snapper for centuries, following, observing, making notes. There is still plenty to learn about this ancient creature. She has been around for so long, some say our planet rests on her back.

The way the story goes, a learned scientist or maybe a philosopher once lectured on the earth's place in the solar system, giving his audience many of the best and latest ideas to do with galaxies, and cosmology. And some ideas were ancient ones.

Folks were enlightened, maybe puzzled, but at least thoughtful. Except one person immediately stood up to challenge the speaker. The way I first heard it, William James was the lecturer. The challenger said, "Everything you've said is wrong, Mr. James. The world is supported



Snapping turtle carapace, found during winter draw-down of Lake Garfield.

by four giant elephants who stand on the back of a huge turtle."

Some say the learned scientist was Bertrand Russell, or Henry Thoreau, or John Locke. I am sticking with William James, who with a smile asked his challenger, "Ah, but what is the turtle standing on?"

"Another, even larger turtle!"

"But what is that turtle standing on?" They go on for a few rounds until William James puts it to him.

"What about the very last turtle. On what is that turtle standing?"

(Here it comes.)

"It's no use, Mr. James. It's turtles all the way down."

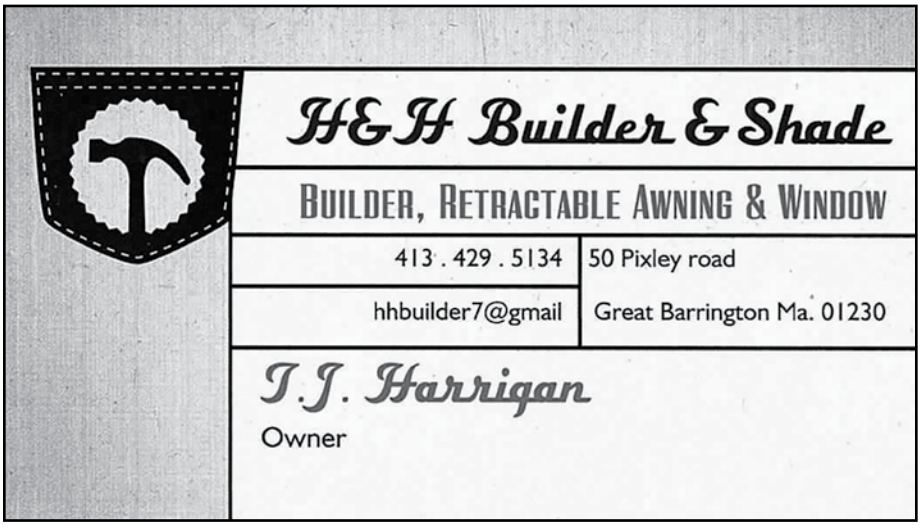
Growing up, we loved that line in my family, and used it whenever we needed to settle an argument about anything.

I used to wonder about those turtles. How did they get the gig, the place in such powerful logic?

Anyone who has hosted a snapping turtle, also called a snake tortoise, or a torup, will recognize at once that this is not a creature for mere science. She goes way, way back and she carries on unchanged for ten million years, so far.

She is a member of the family Chelydridae, and in this country there is only one other species in that family, the alligator snapping turtle. This species might be one of the turtles farther down the tower of turtles in that story. It is even bigger than our snapper, the record being 219 pounds. This is a southern species, down in Georgia, Florida, and Texas. Like ours, she lies on the muddy bottom waiting for something delicious to come along. She has a huge head with hooked beaks on upper and lower mandibles. She lies with her mouth open and has a sort of "lure" on the floor of her mouth. This looks like a pink worm and can be wriggled. In comes the unsuspecting fish.

Our northern snapper is usually ten to thirty-five pounds, much more mobile than the alligator snapper. Ours, too, lies on the muddy bottom like an innocent rock. Often, she has algae growing on her shell, so she blends right in. Along comes a fish or salamander or some juicy aquatic invertebrate, and out shoots our turtle's head. She has a long strong neck and the same kind of hooked, beaked, mandibles as her southern cousin. This turtle is built for action, even when she is out of the water.



This only happens in the early summer, at egg-laying time. The snapper's legs are long and strong, good for swimming or for walking. Sometimes she goes a quarter of a mile from the lake or pond to find just the right place to dig a nest for eggs. This she does by scooping with her hind feet and backing into the earth cave. Once satisfied with the nest, she raises up a bit and lets out her perfectly spherical eggs, which are an inch across. (See photo on page 28.)There are usually about twenty to thirty eggs in a nest, and when she finishes laying, she moves forward, letting the earth roof settle on top of the nest. Sometimes she will then tamp it down with her plastron, which is the "shell" on her belly. This is small, giving little protection to her soft underparts. Generally, she only needs armor on top, her carapace.

The snapper heads back for the water. In about twelve weeks, those eggs will hatch, but only if some skunk or raccoon or even a hungry person does not find them first. They are edible, and so is the turtle herself. Back in the day, you could buy a snapping turtle in the market and take it home to make soup.

Often, according to our observers who write these things down, all the eggs are dug up and eaten within the first day after they've been laid. Even so, the snapping turtles have a healthy and stable population, a system that works. In their relationship with humans, they have been through periods in history when folks robbed the nests to sell or eat eggs. Or when folks considered snappers to be a strain on populations of ducks and geese. The turtles can pull down a chick or gosling, or even a full-grown Canada goose. Some "sportsmen" may kill off all the snappers in a pond so the ducks and geese will grow up and can be shot and eaten by folks instead of by turtles.

Even so, the turtles look like they are good for another ten million years. They have to be, because it is a very long way down, and they must hold up the world.

—Bonner McAllester

ॐ

Natalie Manzino

Jazz at the Knox Gallery

There was an overflow crowd with standing room only at the Knox Gallery on Saturday, June 18. The jazz event was to honor the artist Alan Roland for his exhibit of drawings and watercolors depicting the jazz life at the Smalls club in New York City. Performing in this jazz trio were Ari Roland on bass, Yaala Ballin on keyboard and vocals and Zaid Nasser on alto saxophone. They played classic jazz and blues standards and had the whole house swinging with them. Their expertise, joy, and warmth translated beautifully in this intimate space. The trio then hung out to answer questions about their music. It was a most delightful experience.

—Natalie Manzino

Natalie Manzino

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Here's a Thought...

In a world where force is too often mistaken for power, these ducks on the Konkapot, just west of the post office ten years ago, give us a glimpse at the power of life, the power of bonding, the power of commitment, right here in the natural history of our own little town.

Force, or Power?

Perhaps you haven't read any of the recent to Saturday, June18 articles from *The Texas Tribune*. That's likely, of course. We live in a small rural town in western Massachusetts.

I wouldn't have pulled them up either, but after reading Heather Cox Richardson's post, "Letters from an American," on Sunday morning, June 19, my choices were simple. I could plagiarize the long relevant paragraph she'd constructed midway through her article, or I could start reading the reports from the *Tribune* directly and construct this article from there.

Reading Cox Richardson's paragraph was a surgical experience: deep, invasive, precise, necessary. Wading through the *Tribune* articles, even just the various article headlines, was more like blunt force

Mary Kate Jordan

trauma, maybe or maybe not requiring medical intervention. But each was its own valuable wake-up call. Here are three of the then-recent *Tribune* article headlines. One refers to the Uvalde shooting:

- The last hearse travels the final mile: Layla Salazar's burial ends Uvalde funerals for shooting victims. By Alexa Ura, June 16, 2022.
- Caught between an A+ NRA rating and a nation reeling from shootings, John Cornyn is key to whether gun safety deal advances. By Abby Livingston, June 17, 2022.
- Texas Republican Convention calls Biden win illegitimate and rebukes Cornyn over gun talks. By Sewell Chan and Eric Neugeboren, June 18, 2022.

I found all three online at texastribune.org. If you're going to read just one, I recommend Chan and Neugeboren's article. It's wide-ranging and lets readers know how the members of the convention voted on gun control. The vote was taken two days after the *Tribune* ran Ura's article marking the burial of the last Uvalde shooting victim. Layla Salazar was eleven years old.

The platform's contents are still being finalized. The members of the session were the party's most avid members, so their choices may not reflect the opinions of more moderate Texas Republicans. Members cast votes on the 247 possible points to consider before the close of the last session. As of this article's deadline, they were still being counted, but the sense of the session was made clear by what's already been revealed.

For some, an alarm's been ringing under the pillow for quite a while. Others are happily tinkering with the inner workings of the clock, both to dismantle the alarm and potentially to only permit clocks to tell Texas time. I find this news appalling.

It's not disagreement that appalls me. It's the insistence that the others, those who don't agree with the speaker, are monsters. It's an appeal that comes out swinging, an appeal that mistakes force for power. True, force has its own kind of power, political or not. Our view across Stevens Lake isn't the same now as it would have been if the force of the 1995 tornado hadn't ripped through so many of the trees and across so many hills.

But power, while it sometimes employs force, is a much larger, more generous concept. There's some of that power moving around town at the moment. Its aim is to restore a greater dignity to our town proceedings, and to our social interactions. That's power not only in potential, but also in action. It's the power that civilizations are built on. It's the power that motivates Heather Cox Richardson's writing. You can find her work at heathercoxrichardson.substack.com.

And, as we continue to celebrate Monterey's 175th anniversary year, if you haven't yet gone to the Knox Gallery to see the Historical Society's exhibit *Monterey's Attic*, get yourself there. Check the library open times and don't let the month-long show move by without you.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Estate Planning Presentation

On June 9, close to twenty Montereyans gathered under the community center tent for an outstanding presentation by the Almgren Law Group about the basics of estate and health care planning. Ms. Almgren and Ms. Allen were very engaging speakers, extremely knowledgeable, and easy to understand even on these complicated topics. Their firm is unique in its comprehensive approach to estate planning.

Attorney Paula Almgren and her "life care coordinator" nurse, Deb Allen, first spoke about the benefits of revocable trusts over wills for disposing of assets. Because a will must be adjudicated in probate court it is more expensive and takes more time than a revocable trust. Another disadvantage of a will is that it is a public document—for that reason Paula cautioned not to include your full social security number in a will. She pointed out that revocable trusts often have tax advantages, too.

We were advised that everyone should prepare a durable power of attorney with very specific powers, and to consider including powers of unlimited gifting and self-dealing. Deb Allen talked about the importance of preparing a health care proxy so that someone you choose can guide your medical care if there comes a time when you are unable to and difficult decisions must be made. A medical order for life sustaining treatment (MOLST) is also important, especially for someone with chronic illness. A HIPAA release is essential for everyone so that those close to you can have access to your health information which would otherwise be unavailable.

Ms. Almgren and Ms. Allen also addressed the complex process of planning for care at home, called "community care." Transferring assets and/or the establishment of a "pooled trust" may be options to explore here. The Almgren firm also helps clients access veteran's benefits and public benefits in general.

The Almgren Law Group, a total of eight professionals, is located in Lenox and Ms. Almgren is available for consultations for a flat fee of $325.00. Her telephone number is (413) 637-5075 and she can be reached by email at palmgren@almgrenlaw.com. You can also reach out to request a copy of the firm's monthly e-newsletter. And finally, keep an eye open for Paula Almgren's first book, called *Help, My Mother Needs Care!* due out in January 2023.

—Lin Saberski, chair
Council on Aging

Allium—B.Cox

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Beth and Dave's Travels, Part 1

Editor's Note: This Part 1 really should have been published in the June issue. It was received quite late last month.

Oh! The most wonderful things we have already seen and done.

But first. We need to address a question many have asked lately. "Where is Sande?" The answer is both simple and sad at the same time. After years of volunteering at the transfer station and the swap shop when needed, Sande was informed by Melissa that since she is now in charge of the swap shop, Sande's services were no longer wanted. No explanation and no thank you for all she had done. So very sad.

Now, back to our travels. Even though it has been less than a month we have learned and seen a lot, especially in Virginia and North Carolina. We've learned why the Jamestown colony succeeded and why the lost colony of Roanoke failed. Also, while in North Carolina, we went to the Wright Brothers National Memorial. Learned all kinds of info about the Wright brothers and their flying accomplishments. Saw the Cape Hatteras lighthouse and discovered that it has been moved and how this was done—quite amazing. We left the Outer Banks just in time. A storm from the Atlantic came in and washed beach homes out to sea and closed many roads. Side note, while we were in Virginia, we went to Virginia Beach. The timing was great. There was a kite festival going on. It was amazing. Kites of all sizes and shapes and colors. There were kites shaped like whales, a scuba diver, fish of all kinds. There was even a man there who had a chain of six box kites together that he had dancing to music. Just amazing. He made it look so effortless.

Back in North Carolina we stopped at the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge visitor center and from there we drove through part of the refuge. We didn't see any alligators, darn! But, we did see a huge black bear that seemed to pose for us. Several deer, lots of turtles, blue herons, and songbirds. Many butterflies and many purple irises, thistles, and other flowers.

We spent the night in Asheville, NC. It seemed miles and miles high. I think it felt like that because we started at sea level and then suddenly we were over two thousand feet above sea level. Next morning, down, down, down we went from Asheville to the Cumberland Gap, Cumberland River, and Cumberland Falls. A long day's drive watching the landscape change from mountains and then flattening out to rolling hills in Kentucky.

In Kentucky we hit a home run with our Airbnb. We sat outside each evening on the patio, looking over the pond and fields that stretched to the horizon, with drink in hand, watching the sunset. While in Kentucky we went to the Perryville Battlefield state historic site. It was the location of the only major civil war battle in Kentucky. The sad thing being, as with so many Civil War battles, thousands died and no one really won. The next day we went to Louisville to take a riverboat ride on the Ohio River. We went up the river for an hour and down the river for an hour. No narration (this was supposed to be a sightseeing tour), no wildlife, just very disappointing. But, after we docked, we went up to the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory. The bat factory was very interesting, whether you like baseball or not. Other than these two days, we spent the rest of our time in Kentucky exploring the area around where we were staying. We chose Danville to stay in because one of the places we wanted to visit was the Pleasant Hill Shaker Village. It was very different from the New England Shakers but still very interesting.

Our next stop was southern Illinois. One day we went to Metropolis, the only Metropolis in the United States and now the official home of Superman. It was a nice little town. Saw the huge Superman statue and looked inside some of the junk/antique stores along main street. We then went to visit Fort Massac State Park. A rebuilt fort dating back to the Revolutionary War, on the Ohio River. We stayed in a little tiny town called Alto Pass and spent one day there hiking some nature trails in the area.

We will be leaving Iowa on May 27 and heading back south a couple of hours to Monmouth, Illinois where we will be joining up with Roy Carwile's family and attend a service where his ashes will be buried.

If anyone would be interested in seeing our pictures, you can ask to friend me on Facebook. On Facebook look for Beth Parks.

—Beth and Dave Gilmore

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Beth and Dave's Travels, Part 2

Well, here we are in North Dakota, two months after leaving Monterey on our "Great Adventure."

At the end of part one we were in Bellevue, Iowa getting ready to travel south so we could attend Roy Carwile's funeral with many of his old-time local friends and most of his family. What a wonderful spot he chose, a very small cemetery tucked in a back corner of a corn field surrounded by trees that were planted generations ago. A more peaceful place could not be imagined.

After a short service and saying our goodbyes we headed north to spend some time with Dave's son and his wife who live in the Upper Penninsula (UP) of Michigan. After spending the night in Wisconsin, we found a small park with a sculpture trail. The trail was very cool and a great way to start the day. Now it was north to the UP of Michigan.

It was nice to be with family for a week. We took a two-day trip to Pictured Rock National Lakeshore. It was a nice day; quiet waters, warm, and we were amazed at what nature can do. The rest of the week was taken up with short hikes, fishing, visiting iron mines, taking care of Dave's bad back and learning that the Ford Motor Company built their famous "Woody" station wagon here and then, wondering what to do with leftover wood, started the Kingsford Charcoal company.

After recharging in Michigan we crossed Wisconsin for a two-day stay in Duluth, Minnesota so we could have time to visit the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Unlike the Pictured Rocks boat tour, this one was cold, windy, long, and very unimpressive. Oh well, it was on our "not to miss list."

About halfway across Minnesota we booked a week's stay in the town of Bemidji for no other reason than it was surrounded by state parks, national forests, and lots of lakes. We got our fishing licenses and started out for a week of adventures which included wading across the headwaters of the Mississippi River, going up north to visit the" icebox" of the country, International Falls, and Voyageurs National Park. With the melting ice along with the unusually high amounts of rain, many roads were under water and homes flooded. Sad sights. With fishing, many short hikes, a museum or two, and of course a visit with the giant figures of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox Babe, our stay in Minnesota was over. Onward, we traveled for a two-day stay in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

One caution about Minnesota though. The mosquitoes are so bad that every time we stepped outside, no matter where, we were swarmed! It's no wonder that the locals call the mosquito the "state bird!"

The first morning in Devil's Lake we drove to Fort Totten, a state historic site. The fort was a military fort converted to a school for Native American children. The problem here was the same sad story: take the children from their villages and teach them the white man's way and then, when needed, take their land. Later in the day we had a much more uplifting time. We went to White Horse Hill National Game Preserve. There, as we drove through the preserve, we saw a prairie dog town and a small herd of buffalo with their young ones. Here Beth got pictures of some birds and flowers she had not seen before. The next morning we went back hoping to see elk that were known to live in the park but with no luck.

Across North Dakota we drove for our next week's stay, in the town of Beulah. Day one we headed out early to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park South End. As soon as we drove in we knew for the first time that we were not in Berkshire County anymore. They call this the "Badlands" but it is everything but. Over millions of years the rain, wind, and the Little Missouri River have turned this area into the most interesting part of this country we have experienced as of yet. A thirty-five-mile loop drive zigzagging through the park gives you "oohs" and "aahs" around every corner. Beyond the scenery we saw our first pronghorn antelope, a coyote eyeing said antelope, several small groups of wild horses, turkeys, and a couple more bison. We also saw several colonies of prairie dogs and many birds and flowers. Along with a couple of short walks, this turned into one wonderful day.

After a couple of days of long driving times, we spent June 23 in Beulah at our Airbnb. Wrote this article for the *Monterey News*, paid bills and just relaxed. Relaxing, after all, is a big part of traveling too.

— Beth and Dave Gilmore

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Online worship is available on the Lenox website blog:
lenoxucc.org/blog
Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information or Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

Wildlife in June: Insects, Birds, Large Mammals, and Small

Late in May, Kit Patten and Connie Wilson were out exploring and came upon a big patch of painted trilliums in bloom. These are smaller than the familiar red trilliums, or wake robins, and bloom a bit later. The flowers are smaller, and are white with fine pink decorations.

Also near the end of May, Bonsai Cox sent in a photograph of the resident Canada goose family, with two adults and several downy youngsters.

Julie Johnston is maintaining bird feeders on her porch, just out by day, and only with thistle seeds. These are loved by all sorts of finches, as well as orioles. The local bear comes and gently takes down the cylindrical feeders, apparently hoping for a change of menu to sunflower seeds and peanuts. No such luck. The feeders have not been damaged, but this bear does not care for thistle seeds. Julie took photographs of the birds (Baltimore oriole, above) and of the bear (below).

Margy Abbott reports several people around town have had their chicken coops invaded by a bear, maybe for eggs and meat, maybe attracted to the grain being fed to the chickens. The problem has been solved for Margy and Frank, now, by the installation of electric fencing. Many beekeepers use this also, to discourage bears.

David Abromowitz gave a growl, to discourage his bear visitor from coming too close. He says the visitor then "politely ducked behind a tree."

Cora Baker has had bear visitors, including one who came right up to a sliding glass door, causing the cat inside, Buster, to fluff up to twice his normal size. This was effective, like David Abromowitz's growl. The bear retreated and has not come back.

Another large dark mammal of note was a moose on the shoulder along Sandisfield Road. Adam Brown reports this, near Wallace Hall Road. He says this moose was "easily the size of a large horse, if not bigger," and was just about to go over the guardrail and out onto the road.

The big dark creatures of the month are the female snapping turtles, some walking quite far from the nearest body of water, often arriving in folks' gardens to lay their eggs in the soft earth. Dan Zweig lives near Brewer Pond/Lake Garfield, and the turtle in his garden was wet and dark and gleaming. He took her photograph (below). Mike Freundlich lives near the lake, too, and the turtle at his place had already laid some eggs, which he was able to photograph (below-bottom). He plans to protect them and check again in ten weeks, maybe get some photographs of little snappers just hatched. (See "Snapping Turtles" on page 22-23.)

PLAY GROUP

South Berkshire Kids Playgroup

Monterey Library

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.
July 7, 14, & 21

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.

SOUTH BERKSHIRE KIDS

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education

Suzanne Sawyer saw a handsome skunk walk across the yard, and she also found a scarlet tanager at the end of her driveway, apparently killed by a car (above). The Sawyers have a second batch of bluebirds coming along in the nest box.

Ed Salsitz wrote about a family of wild turkeys. There were two adults and eight young chicks, and when startled the chicks all flew right up into the trees while the adults walked into the woods. Ed sent in a photograph of a colorful caterpillar, decorated with four pairs of blue spots and five pairs of red spots along its back. Besides this, the caterpillar sports fancy tufts of bristly hairs along its sides, making it unpalatable to many kinds of birds whose stomachs could be injured. In fact, some people, too, regret handing these caterpillars, though some of us are not bothered by them. And some birds are happy to eat them, too, especially the cuckoos. These birds are so furtive they are very rarely seen, but you can hear them up in the trees going "cuck. . . cuck. . . cuck. . ." quite often lately. They are happy to have this population boom of the former "gypsy moth" caterpillars, which have undergone a name change to "spongy moth caterpillars." It is true the egg masses do look a bit like very small flattened sponges on the tree trunks where the female moth lays them. But neither the moth nor the caterpillar would make anyone think of a sponge.

We have a wonderful photograph (above) of a giant leopard moth sent in by Colta Ives. This is a handsome big moth, though maybe not just like a giant leopard. The body is two inches long and the wingspan can be three inches.

Catherine Hurst sent a photograph of another beautiful moth, the promethea silkmoth (previous page, and bottom right). And we have a remarkable insect, spotted by John and Ann Higgins while out on a walk with Cos and Margery Spagnoletti. They took good photographs (top right) of this dobsonfly, and you can see that it is nearly as long as that five-inch pocket comb. It has big curving mandibles, but these are just for show, or maybe to discourage anyone from messing with them. They are not for eating. The larval form is aquatic and is called a hellgrammite, used as bait by folks fishing for trout. The larvae have big mandibles too, but this does not worry the trout. Maybe it should.

My most recent note and photograph (at right) came in late in June from Dan Zweig: a charming quill pig on the lawn munching on poplar leaves. Porcupines

are excellent climbers and when up high in a tree they will snip off and let fall small branches with tender tips, then climb down to the ground to lunch at leisure.

—Bonner McAllester
(413) 528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com

Bonsai Cox also sent in this photo (above) of a tree climbing grey fox. (This one is on the ground feeding on birdseed.)

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Bidwell House Museum
Summer Events

The heat of summer is here and we have a number of fun activities happening in July, but before we get into that we have to pay tribute to the fantastic Rob Hoogs. After twelve years as president of the Bidwell House Board of Directors, Rob retired in May and new president, Diane Austin, was elected at the May 21 board meeting.

Rob's leadership for more than a decade helped make the Bidwell House into the wonderful museum that it is today. During his tenure he has guided the museum through numerous projects, including: a capital campaign; a multi-year renovation and preservation project that included a new roof and an accessible entrance; the creation of the Native American Interpretive Trail on the grounds; an expansion in museum programming online and into the off-season; and the completion of a conservation restriction on 180 acres of the property in 2021. In addition, he has donated hundreds of hours of his time working with various board committees and, along with his wife Cindy Hoogs, has spent many hours working in the gardens and on the grounds to make sure the museum always looks beautiful for visitors.

To thank Rob for all he has done for the Bidwell House Museum, the board made the decision to name the newly renovated carriage barn in his honor and presented him with a plaque on May 21. A number of board members and staff shared how important Rob has been to the museum's success over the last decade. Even though he is retiring as president, the museum is thrilled that Rob plans to stay on the board and continue working on programming and outdoor projects at the museum.

Summer Events

On the programming side we have two more summer history talks coming up in July.

Saturday, July 9 at 11 a.m., is "Murder and Mercy on the Susquehanna" with New York University Professor and Pulitzer Prize winner Nicole Eustace. On the eve of a major treaty conference between Iroquois leaders and European colonists in the distant summer of 1722, two white fur traders attacked a Seneca hunter and

Steve Gilbert

left him for dead near Conestoga, Pennsylvania. This act of brutality set into motion a remarkable series of criminal investigations and cross-cultural negotiations that challenged the definition of justice in early America. Eustace's most recent book, *Covered with Night: A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America*, won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in History.

Saturday, July 16, at 11 a.m., Columbia University Professor Hannah Farber presents her talk, "Underwriting the United States." Unassuming but formidable, American maritime insurers used their position at the pinnacle of global trade to shape the new nation. The international information they gathered and the capital they generated enabled them to play central roles in state building and economic development. By the early nineteenth century, insurers were no longer just risk assessors. They were nation builders and market makers.

Both of these talks will be held at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road Tyringham. Tickets are $10 for members and $15 for non-members for attendance in-person. You can also watch a livestream of the talks via Zoom, which is free for members and $10 for non-members. Attendees can buy tickets at the door or on the museum website. Head to our events page, bidwellhousemuseum.org/events/, for more information.

Guided Tours

If spending time out of doors is more your speed this month, then join us for a guided tour through the Bidwell House Museum gardens with Pat Parkins on Saturday, July 16, at 10 a.m. Pat and her Gardens of the Goddess colleagues began caring for the gardens in 2021, and on this walk you will learn about historically correct plants, pollinators and their plants, vegetable, herb and dye gardens in colonial times, along with how Pat and her team keep the Bidwell gardens looking beautiful all season long. The tour will last approximately sixty minutes and if it has to be postponed due to rain, participants will be informed two to three days in advance. This walk is free for members and $10 for non-members.

Summer Party

Finally, on Friday, July 29, the museum will host our summer fundraising party Bidwell in Bloom! We have a wonderful night planned, including cocktails and hors d-oeuvres by Kate Baldwin, and summer music to dance to with DJ Drew. You can also bid on items in the silent auction, walk through the museum's beautiful flower gardens, and share good cheer with long-time friends and new acquaintances. Our honorees this year are Rob and Cindy Hoogs. Join us as we thank them for their many years of generosity, dedication, and amazing contributions to the Bidwell House Museum. All proceeds from this annual event go towards maintaining the beautiful house and collection, supporting and growing the education programs, and stewarding our acres of open space. For more information and tickets, head to the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/bidwell-in-bloom.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road and tours are available by appointment on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. To schedule a tour, call (413) 528-6888, or email bidwellhm2@gmail.com. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open every day free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

528-3211

Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center event descriptions are on page 9.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., under the tent, MCC.

Bridge, 1 p.m. MCC.

Mahjong, 7 p.m., MCC.

Tuesdays, July 5, 12, & 19: Free poetry-reading class, 3 to 4:30 p.m., MCC. See page 19.

Wednesdays: Tai chi, 10 a.m., MCC.

Wednesday, July 6: Diabetes support group, 1 p.m., MCC.

First Thursdays: Darn yarners, 10 a.m. MCC.

Fridays: Bridge, 1 p.m., MCC.

Saturdays: Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m., not on June 25, MCC.

Sundays: Monterey softball. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30 as weather permits.

Saturdays from July 2 through August 13, children's programs at the library. See page 25 for schedule. (Cut it out!)

Saturday, July 9: Bidwell history talk, "Murder and Mercy on the Susquehanna," with Nicole Eustace. See page 30.

Monday, July 11: "What's Happening," with Melanie Brandston from Gould Farm, at MCC.

Saturday, July 16: Bidwell history talk, "Underwriting the United States," with Hannah Farber. See page 30.

Monday, July 18: "What's Happening" with Don Barkin and Janet Jensen discussing "Poetry and Nature," MCC.

Thursday, July 21: Galina Vromen, "Gained in Translation" lecture, 4 to 5:15 p.m., MCC.

Saturday, July 23: Tag sale to support the Monterey Native Plants Working group, at MCC. See page 7.

Saturday, July 30:

Book and plant sale, 9 a.m. to noon, at the library. See page 8.

Fire Company's 45th annual steak roast. See page 8.

Saturday, August 13: Pauline Dongala talking about her life in the Congo, 7 p.m., MCC.

Tuesday, August 23: Special town election for select board seat. See page 2.

Saturday, August 27: Marshall Messer concert, 6 to 8 p.m., at MCC.

Council on Aging

Our council on aging outreach coordinator, Emily Hadsell, is available in her office in town hall, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can also call her at (413) 528-1443, ext. 112, or email coaoutreach@montereyma.gov, with any questions.

July Events

Movie Night: This month's movie, *Star Wars IV*, will be shown on Tuesday, July 12, at 7 p.m., in the Monterey Library.

Ongoing Services

Wellness Clinic: The wellness clinic will take place on Thursday, June 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. Appointments to take blood pressure and do an assessment are no longer necessary.

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, July 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call Emily (number above) if you'd like more information about the program.

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. Council on aging covers $10 of her fee.

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers through the council on aging.

—Lin Saberski, Chair

Berkshire Fish Hatchery

July 9: Fishing derby from 9 to 10:30 a.m., for children thirteen and younger.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be emailed to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at (413)528-4007.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Town Administrator:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency)**:** 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Conservation Commission

Seeking New Members

The Monterey Conservation Commission is looking for individuals who would like to be appointed to the commission to help carry out our unfunded mandate of protecting our local rivers, streams, mountainsides, coldwater fisheries, and general habitat from harm or destruction. We meet once a month. Great if you have some technical skill such as reading site plans, identifying plants, or implementing environmental regulations.

Training is available and recommended. Please send a letter of interest to Conservation Commission, Attn: New Member, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA, 01245, or contact me by email, christopher.blair3@gmail.com. Thank you!

—Chris Blair, chair, Monterey Conservation Commission

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Cindy Hoogs

Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 22.

Corashire Realty
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CORASHIRE REALTY
Deborah D. Mielke
(C) 413-329-8000
corashirerealty@gmail.com
REALTOR®
Nancy Dinan, founder
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